

Good Morning Representatives, my name is Katherine Brummel. I am senior in the Interior Design program at Michigan State University. MSU's interior design program has been accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation for the past 30 years. I am happy to be here today speaking on behalf of my class, my program, and all interior design students in Michigan. Although I have only been involved with the Coalition for Interior Design Registration for the past four years, others have been on this journey longer than I have been alive. I am passionate about this cause because it will influence the future of the interior design profession, and subsequently my future. I feel our state should recognize the education I am completing to practice my profession and benefit my community.

As a student in an accredited Interior Design program, we go through an intense curriculum to prepare us for the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam. We are taught the necessary information to make decisions effecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. Included in our 4 year program is a specifications class where we learn how to choose the correct design solutions by learning the fabrication and installation of products. During this class, we are involved in site visits to manufacturers and installation viewings. In addition, we are taught the International Building Code and are educated by an East Lansing Code Official. We also engage in a human dimensions class where we complete several projects using designs compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. One of these projects was for a real life client, who needed a residential and commercial space accessible for her wheelchair. In order to communicate with other professionals such as engineers, we have a systems class to help provide us with the understanding of such systems as electrical, heating, ventilation and air conditioning. This rigorous class schedule prepares us for more than picking out color schemes; we are taught how to make important decisions to ensure proper design.

As a Grand Rapids resident, I have strong ties to Michigan. I would like to stay in west Michigan and practice my chosen career. Without these necessary laws, others including myself are looking out of state for jobs. The number of students securing jobs and internships out of Michigan has been consistently rising over the past few years. In my class this past year, the number of out of state internships was greater than that of the in state internships. Several students have gone to places like Colorado, Illinois, and New York where laws are in place to protect their citizens and acknowledge a designer's education. Without a bill to protect us, Michigan will continue to lose qualified interior design professionals who are committed to excellent design and public safety.

Thank you to all who have supported our efforts in the past. I hope my personal experiences have shown how important this cause is to me, other designers, and the public.